

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the second paragraph, beginning on line 20, page 2, with the following amended paragraph:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/712,005, filed November 13, 2000 in the name of inventors Purnam Sheth, Aravind Sitaraman, Charles Yager and Gregory Burns, entitled "PPP/L2TP Domain Name Pre-Authorization", commonly assigned herewith.

Please replace the second paragraph, beginning on line 10, page 16, with the following amended paragraph:

The LAC 360 is linked to a separate server/memory device 355, herein referred to as an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) server 355. The LAC 360 and the AAA server 355 communicate with one-another according to the Remote Access Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) protocol. The specific details of the RADIUS protocol are well known by those of ordinary skill in the art. Moreover, as will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, the RADIUS protocol has limited applicability to the present invention and, therefore a detailed discussion of this protocol is deemed unnecessary. The preferred methods of the present invention described herein are not limited to the use of the RADIUS protocol and other equivalent authentication protocols may be used.

Please replace the second paragraph, beginning on line 10, page 17, with the following amended paragraph:

The virtual circuit profile packet travels from the AAA server 350 to a second receiving interface (not shown in Fig. 4) within the LAC 360 where the LAC 360 serves to create secure

channels to private areas of the network for those users who are authorized to use such sites and, an assessor within the LAC 360 makes a determination as to whether or not the virtual circuit profile for DSLAM port has a ~~tunnel-selection~~ domain configuration override attribute associated with it. A calculator determines whether the service associated with the virtual circuit matches the service associated with the domain configuration override attribute. If a ~~tunnel-selection~~ domain configuration override attribute does not exist in the profile, a connection is opened through the ~~home-gate 395~~ LNS 400 of the requested private domain 320. If a ~~tunnel-selection~~ domain configuration override attribute does exist in the virtual circuit profile for the specified DSLAM port, or if the PPP authentication packet does not include a domain name, [a] an exclusive tunnel is established with the LNS 400 associated with the domain indicated by the virtual circuit profile corresponding to the DSLAM port.

Please replace the second paragraph, beginning on line 12, page 21, with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~tunnel-selection~~ domain configuration override attribute is requested by the domain owner to be placed in virtual circuit profiles. It allows the service provider the capability to ensure that a PPP session originating from a DSLAM port allocated to a particular domain can connect with only that particular domain, regardless of what domain name is entered in the PPP authentication packet. This provides added security to the owner of the private domain by lessening the likelihood of an unauthorized access to the home gateway of a corporate intranet. The service provider would have the control over which ports are allocated to which domains. The service provider would also have control over which ports have the ~~tunnel-selection~~ domain configuration attribute in their virtual circuit profile and are, thus, limited to one domain and

which virtual circuit profiles do not contain the ~~tunnel-selection~~ domain configuration override attribute and are, thus, free to connect to more than one domain.